

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2015050333

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUANCE AND SETTING  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND  
HEARING DATES

On June 5, 2015, Pajaro Valley Unified School District filed a request to continue the dates in this matter based upon the unavailability of four essential witnesses due to preplanned vacations. These vacations are generally from the date currently scheduled for hearing through July 8, 2015. Pajaro asked that the hearing be set to begin on August 18, 2015. Student opposed a continuance of that length and did not oppose a short continuance and, in the alternative, asked that the date for hearing be moved forward. This matter is currently set for hearing on June 23, 2015, and this is the first request for a continuance.

A due process hearing must be conducted and a decision rendered within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. Good cause may include the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances; substitution of an attorney when the substitution is required in the interests of justice; a party's excused inability to obtain essential testimony or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case as a result of which the case is not ready for hearing. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) The Office of Administrative Hearings considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays; the length of continuance requested; the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request; prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance; the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings; whether trial counsel is engaged in another trial; whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

OAH has reviewed the request for good cause and considered all relevant facts and circumstances. The request is:

☒ Granted. All dates are vacated. This matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference:	June 26, 2015, at 10:00a.m.
Due Process Hearing:	July 9, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., July 13, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., July 14, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: June 9, 2015

/s/

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MARGARET BROUSSARD  
Presiding Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings